

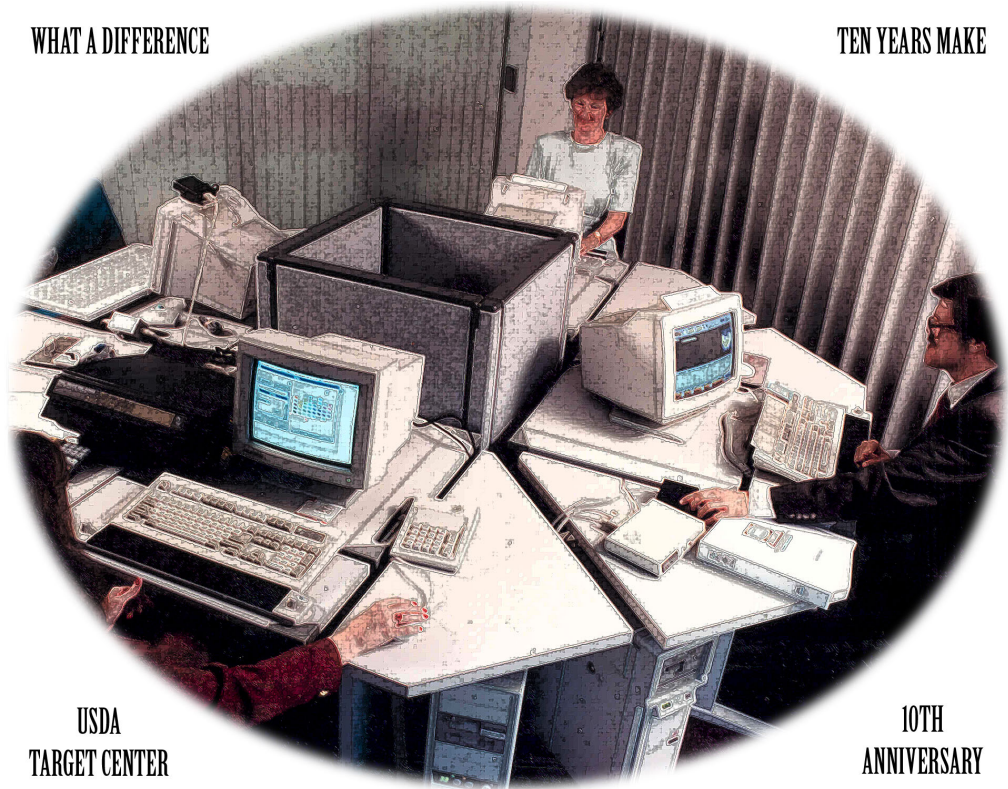


# TARGET ACCESS

Disability  
Awareness  
Month  
SPECIAL  
DOUBLE  
ISSUE

WHAT A DIFFERENCE

TEN YEARS MAKE



USDA  
TARGET CENTER

10TH  
ANNIVERSARY

TARGET Access

Issue # 3

October 2002

## Hello Friends of the TARGET Center!

As you may have noticed, our newsletter has a brand new name! This is just one of many changes the TARGET Center has gone through in our 10 year existence. Another change of which some of you may not be aware, was that on August 30th the Secretary signed into effect the USDA/CAP Partnership that provides free Assistive Technology accommodations to all qualified USDA employees with a disability. Please visit our website for more information on the 'CAP Partnership'. One thing, however, has remained constant over the years. The TARGET Center is here to help you!

The inaugural issue of TARGET Access is a special Double Issue due to the fact that October is Disability Awareness Month. In these pages you will find detailed information on our Fall Open House and 10th Anniversary Celebration as well as a profile of our founding director, Ophelia Y. Falls. Furthermore, October marks a busy month for disability-related events, as evident in our extended Calendar of Events.

# Disability Awareness Month

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **What is National Disability Employment Awareness Month?**

Congress designated each October as National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM). The Office of Disability Employment Policy has the lead in planning NDEAM activities and materials to increase the public's awareness of the contributions and skills of American workers with disabilities. Various programs carried out throughout the month also highlight the specific employment barriers that still need to be addressed and removed.

### **What is JWOD?**

The Javits-Wagner-O'Day (JWOD) Program provides employment opportunities for nearly 40,000 Americans who are blind or who have other severe disabilities. State and private nonprofit organizations employ these individuals and they provide quality on-time goods and services to the federal government.

### **What is JWOD Week?**

National JWOD Week provides an opportunity for community rehabilitation programs (CRP) and federal customers to recognize the Javits-Wagner-O'Day Program. In particular, CRPs are encouraged to use this opportunity to inform and educate their public policy makers about the JWOD Program.

### **What can I do to help honor NDEA month?**

Attend events like the ones listed in this newsletter, including the TARGET Center's Fall Open House on October 10th. Ask a Disability Resource Center near you for ways that you can help spread the word. Volunteer at various disability related organizations. For more information, feel free to contact the TARGET Center.

### **What can I do if I have an employee that needs accommodations?**

All the information necessary to request accommodations is available on the TARGET Center website at [www.usda.gov/oo/guide.htm](http://www.usda.gov/oo/guide.htm). Additionally, please feel free to call the TARGET Center with any questions at 202-720-2600. Remember, under the new USDA/CAP Partnership, all approved accommodations are free of charge to employees with a qualified disability.

### **Are there any new initiatives to hire more people with disabilities?**

Executive order 13163 was created to promote an increase in the opportunities for individuals with disabilities to be employed at all levels and occupations of the Federal Government, and to support the goals articulated in section 501 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. This initiative also required each Federal agency to prepare a plan to increase employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities.

# DISABILITY AWARENESS MONTH

## Calendar of Events

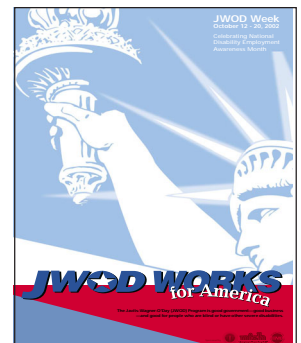
**October 9, 10 am**  
**NDEA Month Opening Ceremony**  
**"New Freedom in the 21st Century"**  
**Jefferson Auditorium**  
**Washington, DC**

This event will be videotaped and broadcast on the internal LAN monitors throughout the USDA facilities located in the Washington, D.C. area. All employees are encouraged to attend the opening ceremony program.

**October 9, 1 pm -3 pm**  
**Leading and Managing**  
**Employees with Disabilities**  
**Jefferson Auditorium**  
**Washington, DC**

**October 9-10**  
**5th Annual**  
**USDA Agency**  
**Information Technology**  
**Showcase**  
**Whitten Building Patio**  
**Washington, DC**

**October 10, 9 am - 2 pm**  
**USDA TARGET Center**  
**10th Anniversary Celebration**  
**and Fall Open House**



**October 12-20**  
**JWOD Week**

**Oct 16, 10 am**  
**Panel Presentations & Exhibits**  
**APHIS**  
**Riverdale Conference Center**

**October 22 ,9 am - 2pm**  
**FS Unity Festival**  
**Decator, TX**

**October 24, 10 am**  
**Fidos For Freedom**  
**Presentation**  
**Riverdale Conference Center**



On October 10th, the USDA TARGET Center will hold a brief program of recollections and remarks with Ophelia Y. Falls at our annual Fall Open House. As the founding director of the TARGET Center, Ophelia helped lay the groundwork for disability programs and procedures in the Department of Agriculture. She was a technical advisor to the first Secretary's Advisory Committee on Employees with Disabilities (SACED) and a member of APDA. Ms. Falls' efforts in the disability arena extended to non-USDA areas as well, including GSA Section 508 Initiatives, a past Chair of Interagency Disabilities Awareness Showcase, serving 4 years on the Planning Committee for the Perspectives on Employment of Persons with Disabilities Conference, she was a member of RESNA, International Commission on Technology and Accessibility ICTA North America. She was an annual presenter at CSUN International Conference on Technology and People with Disabilities. Please join us at 9 am on October 10th in the TARGET Center to help honor this extraordinary woman.

## **USDA TARGET CENTER 10th Anniversary Celebration & Fall Open House October 10th, 2002 9 am - 2 pm**

### **Schedule:**

- 9 am - 10 am: A Brief Program of Recollections and Remarks with Ophelia Y. Falls, founding director.**
- 10 am - 2 pm: TARGET Center Open House**

### **Information Sessions:**

- 10:00 am - 10:45 am: Screen Readers**
- 11:00 am - 11:45 am: Voice Recognition Software**
- 12:30 am - 1:15 pm: Ergonomics**
- 1:15 pm - 2:00 pm: USDA/CAP Partnership**

All Open House attendees who sign-in are eligible to win one of several exciting prizes in a drawing at the end of the day. Non-present winners will be contacted.

All information sessions will be conducted in the Conference Room located in the back of the TARGET Center. TARGET Staff will be giving ongoing tours of all the Assistive Technology and Ergonomic devices in the center.

A sign-language interpreter has been scheduled. Assistive listening devices, magnification devices, notetakers, alternative formatting (i.e. braille, diskette, large print, etc.) are available if requested in advance.

*Helping People. It's What We Do.*

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